

**SENATE RESOLUTION
1997-8660**

By Senators Brown, Wood, Patterson, McAuliffe, Swanson, Kohl, Zarelli, Rossi and Goings

WHEREAS, April 13-19 marks the Week of the Young Child, established by the National Association for the Education of Young Children; and

WHEREAS, This is a time to focus public attention on the needs of young children and their families and to support the early childhood programs and services that meet those needs; and

WHEREAS, The early childhood years (birth through age 8) lay the foundation for children's success in school and later life; and

WHEREAS, A child's first three years are vital in shaping learning and development and, deprived of a healthy, stimulating environment, a child's brain suffers; and

WHEREAS, One out of every 10 children three years old and younger lives in extreme— poverty and face major risk factors, including inadequate health care, substandard child care and education, and insufficient attention by parents because of workplace or other pressures; and

WHEREAS, This week can bring awareness to how we -- as citizens of a community, of a state, and of a nation -- can better meet the needs of all young children and their families;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the members of the Washington State Senate make every effort to acknowledge the importance of a child's early years as the very best learning years for all children; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be immediately transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to the National Association for the Education of Young Children.